(b) whether the advertisement would enhance female foeticide;

(c) if so, what action Government proposes to withdraw such advertisement in the media; and

(d) the action proposed to be taken against the concerned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) As per the information furnished by Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, the matter has been brought to their notice. However, its impact on female foeticide has not been studied.

(c) and (d) Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has further intimated that keeping in view the sensitivity of the matter, they have asked the Indian Broadcasting Foundation (IBF) and Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI) to advise all the TV channels to take such advertisements off the air pending enquiry. The matter was also placed before the Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) constituted by the Government to look into the complaints of violations of Programme and Advertising codes as prescribed under the Cable TV Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and the rules framed thereunder and the IMC has upheld the complaint and recommended that the concerned channels may be directed to take this advertisement off the air.

Enactment to abolish child marriage

1849. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is actively considering to bring a new and fresh enactment on child marriage, to totally abolish the oldest Act of 1929;

(b) if so, when and how a new Act would be beneficial and protective for the child;

(c) whether the marriage of a boy shall not be permitted even after the fixed age for this purpose, till he is fully responsible for himself and his life partner; and

(d) how far the Nation would be benefited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (d) In order to prohibit child marriages and to make the provisions of the Act more effective and punishment more stringent for offenders, a new legislation "The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006" (No. 6 of 2007) has already been notified in the Gazette of India on 11th January, 2007 and the said Act has been enforced *w.e.f.* 1.11.2007. The Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 is repealed with the enfocement of the said Act. As per the said Act, the marriageable age for girls is 18 years and for boys 21 years. Enhancement in punishments for male adults marrying a child and persons performing, abetting, promoting, attending a child marriage with imprisonment upto two years and fine upto one lakh rupees as well as appointment of Child Marriage Prohibition Officers in each State/UT and also, awareness generation and advocacy measures which are continuously being undertaken by the Ministry of Women and Child Development will help in prohibiting child marriages.